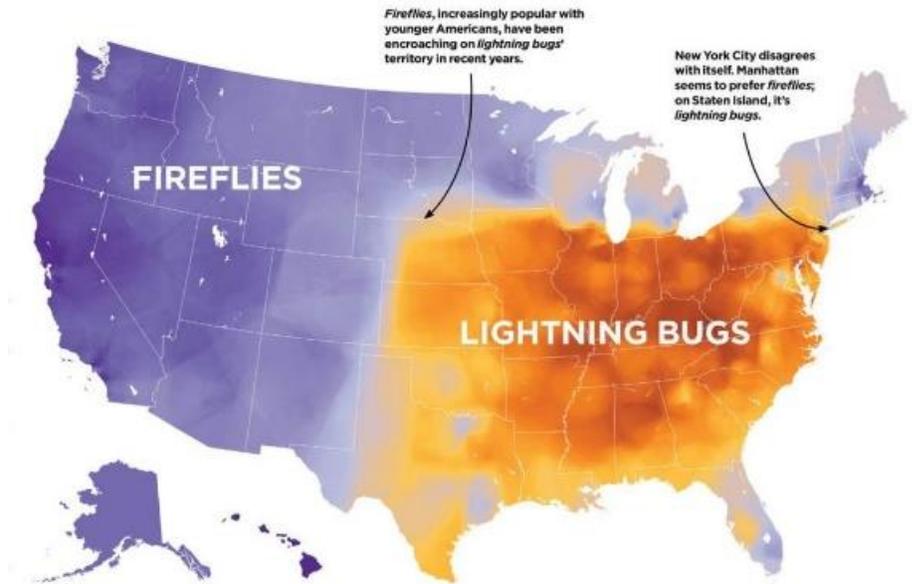




## Virtual Firefly Lesson: Firefly Geography

*In this lesson, participants will discover where fireflies live in the world and how to say “firefly” in other languages.*

Whether you call them fireflies or lightning bugs, they can be found in different places all over the world. There are over 2,000 different species of firefly and only about 200 of them are found in the United States! As long as they have a chemical-free environment, warm weather, humidity and water, along with tall grasses, flowers, and trees, they should be happy little beetles lighting up the night. Increased firefly diversity is found in tropical areas like Asia, Central America, and South America. Check out the map to the right (*not a population map*) and see if you agree with the common term used in your state. For an enlarged map and more information check out [this Business Insider article](#).



Have you traveled somewhere in the world where you've seen these magical little beetles blinking away at night? Where have **you** seen fireflies? Ask your parents, guardians, grandparents, and neighbors where they have seen fireflies.

### What other areas of the world have fireflies?

- North America** - about 200 species
- Central America** - at least 170 species
- South America** - at least 65 species
- Europe** - at least 28 species
- Asia** - at least 84 species
- Africa** - at least 5 species
- Australia** - at least 25

[Click here](#) to check out different firefly species on iNaturalist, a citizen science program that allows people all over the world to observe and record different species in their area, tracking presence and dispersal. You can either search for different species to see their dispersal placed on a map or you can look at observations of fireflies in specific locations if there is an active group. Example: Search “Fireflies of Asia” to discover species observed in Asia.



“Firefly” can be said in many different languages! Check out the map to the right and practice saying “firefly” in other languages. Also explore [this page](#) that breaks down language and word use. Using that same link, you can also send firefly.org information on how you say firefly in your language(s)! Start a conversation with the people close to you to figure out all the different ways they know how to say firefly.

